

ASIAN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #6 – MAY 27, 2020

It's hard to believe it has already been three weeks since our last update. We continue to field several media requests about Asian giant hornet each week, but thankfully it is slowing.

We also continue to work on our plans for Asian giant hornet detection and eradication efforts. Here's what you'll find in today's update:

- [Fake signs posted at Washington trailheads](#)
- [Canada finds first Asian giant hornet of 2020](#)
- [No news continues to be good news in Washington](#)
- [Organizations cooperate with WSDA to expand trapping efforts](#)
- [New sting flow chart](#)
- [Citizen scientist trapping](#)
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FAKE TRAIL SIGNS



1 Fake Asian giant hornet sign posted at trails over Memorial Day weekend

This weekend both the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received numerous reports of suspicious signs posted at trailheads. Most of the signs seem to have been posted in the Tiger Mountain area. We consulted with DNR and they were able to confirm that these signs were NOT legitimate DNR signs.

At first glance, the signs seemed convincing. They had the DNR logo, an accurate telephone number, and they were even laminated. However, closer inspection revealed several issues and misinformation on the signs:

- They used the term “Asian hornets.” Asian hornets are NOT the same as Asian giant hornets.
- They used the term “murder hornets” which we discourage the use of as it since it is a misleading name.
- They referred to the “Department of Natural Recourses” which is obviously incorrect.
- While it provided a legitimate DNR phone number, Asian giant hornet reports should be made to WSDA, not DNR.
- There have been no confirmed sightings/reports of Asian giant hornets on any trails in the state.
- Inconsistent use of capitalization – random words were capitalized.
- They said that they are attracted to light colors. We’ve actually read that they are attracted to both light and dark colors, and we would try to avoid posting unhelpful or confusing information on warning signs.
- We have no information that DEET would attract Asian giant hornets.
- We have no information that the hornets can fly up to 40 mph. We do know they can fly faster than humans can run.
- They say to bring the specimen with you to the doctor if stung. While this is general advice that applies to most insects, Asian giant hornets can sting repeatedly and we do not advise that someone attempt to capture or retain one if it were not already dead.

Although disappointed that someone would go through the effort of putting up these signs with misinformation, we were highly impressed with the number of people who knew enough about Asian

giant hornets to question the authenticity of the signs. Many thanks to the hikers who reported the suspicious signs!

FIRST ASIAN GIANT HORNET OF 2020 DETECTED IN CANADA



This week we learned that a new Asian giant hornet detection was confirmed in Canada.

A resident stepped on a suspected Asian giant hornet in Langley, B.C. and reported it to the Ministry of Agriculture in British Columbia on May 15. The next day, the authorities collected the specimen and confirmed that it was an Asian giant hornet. They will be conducting testing to determine whether the specimen was a queen and if so, whether it was mated or not. They will also conduct DNA testing in an effort to

determine the specific region the hornet may have come from.

NO NEWS CONTINUES TO BE GOOD NEWS

Still no confirmed reports of Asian giant hornets in Washington in 2020!

ORGANIZATIONS COOPERATE WITH WSDA' TRAPPING EFFORTS

WSDA is working with cooperators to increase trapping efforts. Cooperators commit to placing and servicing several traps. Cooperators include beekeeper organizations, biologists, local government agencies, national and state parks, ports, sovereign nations, USDA, Washington State University, Western Washington University, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. To date, cooperators have committed to placing and servicing 110 Asian giant hornet bottle traps. If your organization is interested in becoming a cooperator, please email Cassie Cichorz at hornets@agr.wa.gov.

STING FLOW CHART FOR RESPONDING TO ASIAN GIANT HORNET STINGS

What do you do if you are stung by an Asian giant hornet? WSDA and DOH worked to develop a sting flow chart to help the public understand the best course of action to take depending on the circumstances. The new publication is available to [download as a pdf on WSDA's website](#).



CITIZEN SCIENTIST TRAPPING

As a reminder, residents can participate in [citizen scientist trapping](#). We have information on our website about how to build a homemade trap and report trapping results to WSDA. However, if you decide to put a trap up on your property, please do not place one until July. If you already have one up, feel free to take it down and resume trapping in July.

If you do NOT live in Washington State, please do not trap for Asian giant hornets. There have been no reports of Asian giant hornets outside of Washington and putting up traps outside of the Pacific Northwest is likely to do more harm than good by killing native insects.

DR. CHRIS LOONEY TO BE FEATURED IN PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER WEBINAR

Dr. Chris Looney, Entomologist at the Washington State Department of Agriculture will explain the basics of the Asian giant hornet, the risk they pose to our local wildlife and economy, and efforts currently underway to eradicate the pest from our region as part of the Pacific Science Center's Science in the City series.

The webinar will take place on **June 2 at 7 p.m.**

[Register in advance to attend the webinar.](#) The webinar is free, but they do accept a donation.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Our Pest Program completed a programmatic non-specific State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist. Unlike site-specific checklists which look at specific sites (such as for gypsy moth eradication), this type of checklist makes plans for how the program would address eradication in different environmental scenarios that could happen anywhere in the state. This is important as WSDA will need to conduct an eradication when a nest is found and the nest locations at this time are unknown.

The SEPA documents are now available for review at agr.wa.gov/hornets. The public comment period mentioned in our last update is now closed.